

JOINT CITY-COUNTY AIRPORT BOARD

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, January 12, 2009, 10:00 AM

Stillwater County Annex, Suite C

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alan Drain, Roger Johnston, Willard Moore, Waymoth (Fitz) Fitzgerald, and Joe Morse

OTHERS:

Maureen Davey, BOCC Representative; Allen Rickman, Airport Manager; Gary Woltermann, Columbus Mayor

GUESTS:

Gene Wasia and Travis Eickman, Morrison-Maierle; Hardin Graham; John Smith, Laurel Airport

STAFF:

Forrest Mandeville and Laurie Kelley

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Fitz called the meeting order at 10:00AM.

II. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Alan made the motion that the minutes from the December 2008 meeting be approved.
Joe seconded; all in favor, motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Jerry Nelson—Hangar activity—

Jerry was not in attendance. This agenda item was tabled until the next Board meeting.

B. Airport Authority—

John Smith, Laurel Airport Manager, spoke to the group about the formation of an airport authority. He gave the Board members a handout entitled “Advantages of an Airport Authority” (see attached). He said some of the rewards were that it reduced the politics involved in running an airport and it improved the budgeting process because the board knows how much money they will have ahead of time and doesn’t have to turn back unspent money at the end of each fiscal year. He said that it did require the members to take on more responsibility and to play a more active role in the running of the airport. John said that having diversity among the authority board members is very important, so that you can take advantage of a broad base of knowledge. The Board discussed the subject.

C. Sample Airport Authority Budget—

Joe passed out copies of a mock budget. He included the historical costs, plus extras (see attached), which he said was just a starting point. The Board discussed how to fund the airport; city only funding or county-wide.

An airport authority sub-committee was formed consisting of Roger Johnston and Joe Morse, who will consult with Gene Wasia on the exact costs and makeup of an airport authority and report back to the Board. This committee's report will be a standing agenda item in the future.

D. Hardin Graham Hangar Enquiry—

Hardin told the Board that he planned to locate a business at the Airport, and, in his opinion there was no location currently available that fit his needs. He proposed the creation of a building site east of the ramp, behind the fuel system in an area that is currently an alternative tie-down field. Initially he plans to erect a 60' x 70' hangar, but needs room to expand. An area adjacent to the ramp is very important to his business plan. Gene Wasia, Morrison-Maierle, said that the Board would need to approach the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to modify the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) so that he could build there, since it has not been identified as a hangar location. The Board requested that Hardin get the hangar packet from the City, begin the process, identify the exact location for his building, and report to the Board at the next meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Fence Project Update—

Travis Eickman of Morrison-Maierle brought in the final copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). He explained that the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) would like a copy of the plans to determine if the wetlands will be impacted, but since the wetlands area will be fenced when the ground is frozen, he felt they would approve it. Travis reported that he will take care of the public notification, but we will need to send the information out for an independent fee review. Forrest will call engineers on the State-authorized list to find out if they have time to evaluate the information before the next Board meeting, which will be held on February 9, 2009. The Board reviewed the plans in depth and discussed gate options.

B. Hangar Application Process—

Roger will stay in touch with Hardin as he prepares to build his hangar. He will report back to the group and they will evaluate the process afterward to see if any changes need to be made.

C. Helena—January 30, 2009 Montana Aeronautics Division Hearing—

Maureen, Gary, and Alan D. will attend the hearing in Helena to answer questions about the grant. Allen R. will also attend if he is in the area.

V. MANAGER'S REPORT:

The Manager reported that they had to add hydraulic fluid to the snow plow.

VI. FINANCE REPORT:

Joe said he had not done a balance sheet this time because he was working on the mock budget. He reported that the crack seal project is done and paid for.

VII. OTHER: None

VIII. ADJOURN MEETING:

With no more business to discuss, Alan Drain made the motion to adjourn the meeting.
Willard seconded; all in favor, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM.

Laurie Kelley
Administrative Assistant